(d) if so, the basis of such views; and

(e) if not, the measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Although the Government has itself not made any assessement of the requirement of the experts in Information Technology, however as per one of studies conducted, there would be a requirement of 11 lakh experts in hard core IT sector by the year 2008. There are at present nearly 700 institutes providing IT/IT related programmes at the degree level and nearly 500 institutes providing Master of Computer Applications (MCA) programmes. The total intake is about 80,000. Government has been facilitating increase in the number of seats in IT programmes, starting of new IT programmes and setting up of new educational institutions for IT/IT related programmes. Government on its own has set up two IIITs at Gwalior and Allahabad. Based on the present intake capacities and the trends available, it is felt that the requirement of IT professionals shall be adequately met as per projections. There are, however, apprehensions relating to their quality. The entire issue was deliberated in detail by the Task Force on HRD in IT set up under the Chairmanship of Human Resource Development. A series of measures have been identified to improve the quality.

Crimes By education centres

1375. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep rise in crimes by the educational centres throughout the country, regarding thwarting the merit and deprivation of education;

(b) whether the orphans and crippled covered under the fixed quota are deprived from getting admissions;

(c) if so, whether Government would introduce a policy in future where under meritorious students, alongwith those who come under quota, don't have to remain deprived of education due to non- admission; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any measures to check such crimes growing in the National Open School?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) Admission in educational institutions are made in accordance with the policies laid down by Centre/States. Generally, the procedure for admission takes into account various factors such as merit, reservation quota, number of seats etc. Also, the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3% reservation of seats for persons with disabilities in all Government educational institutions and those receiving aid from the Government. Accordingly, all States/UTs and apex educational bodies viz., National Council of Educational Research & Training, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangthan, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, National Open School, Central Board of Secondary Education, University Grants Commission etc. have been requested to ensure implementation the Act. In so far as National Open School is concerned no such crimes regarding deprivation of education to meritorious/ Physically disabled children have occurred.

Delays in IGNOU

1376. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IGNOU with over six lakh students has become the largest varsity in the country and second largest in the world and for the first time. people living in remote and geographically inaccessible areas are getting a change to educate themselves;

(b) whether there have been cases of inordinate delays in the studies by their coaching centres, as also in declaration of results of various courses; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation on both these counts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indira Gandhi National Open University is one of the largest Universities in the World.

(b) and (c) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University does not have coaching centres. However, IGNOU has established different kinds of centres such as Study centres, Special Study Centres, Programme Centres, Work Centres,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.